

2003 Hall of Fame Inductee

Don Triebensee

Don Triebensee was born in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. He grew up on a dairy farm and graduated from Plymouth High School in 1947. As an FFA member, he earned his State FFA Degree, participated in the state finals of the FFA Quartette contest for 2 years, and sang with the Wisconsin FFA Chorus at the National Victory Convention. He graduated from the River Falls State Teachers College in 1951 with majors in Agricultural Education and Science and served with the US Army Signal Corps in the Korean War.

Don began his career in the summer of 1954, teaching vocational agriculture at Rice Lake High School, where he served as FFA Advisor for 35 years, retiring in 1989. During his tenure, he advised 10 State FFA officers, as well as numerous sectional star finalists and state proficiency winners. He served as a supervising teacher for 50 student teachers in Ag Ed. At one time he had 14 former students teaching agricultural education.

Don served as President of the Wisconsin Association of Vocational Agriculture Instructors in 1965 and was named WAVAI's Distinguished Secondary Educator in 1989. He also served as Vice Chair of the UW-River Falls College of Agriculture Advisory committee for 5 years, and 6 years on the Board of Directors of UW-River Falls Ag Alumni Association.

He is the recipient of the chapter, Wisconsin, and American FFA honorary degrees and the Wisconsin FFA Distinguished Service Award, as well as the Wisconsin Junior Dairyman's Association Distinguished Service Special Appreciation Award. He was named Rice Lake Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Decade and the Rice Lake Rotary Club Outstanding Citizen of the year in 1998. Don and his wife Doris are members of First Lutheran Church, where he is serving his 31st year on its Church Council.